**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium Zoom**

**Friday 28 January 2022**

**Attending**: – Jo Towler (Music in the Round) - Chair; Andrew Snelling (Sheffield City Trust); Geff Green (SHU); Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres); Vanessa Toulmin (UoS), Laura Clarke (Art Catalyst); Georgina Kettlewell (YAS); Kirstie Hamilton (Sheffield Museums); Ian Wild (Showroom/ Workstation); Judith Harry (Site Gallery); Clare Stewart (Doc/Fest); Nick Partridge (Sheffield Libraries), Wendy Ulyett (Marketing Sheffield); Rebecca Maddox (SCC).

**Apologies:** Rose Wilcox (The Leadmill); Kim Streets (Sheffield Museums); Sylvia Bednarz (Doc/Fest); Sara Unwin (UoS)

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|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Minutes and Matters arising**  The minutes of the November meeting were agreed.   * The Consortium Away Day with Shruti Bharvaga has been postponed from 17th December to 3rd March. * Karen Durham will attend a CC meeting once the NPO application process has concluded. * Set up a joint session on Mental Health First Aid with a course provider. There will be a modest charge for this. * A joint meeting with Doc/Fest and Consortium to share learning on outreach programme to take place in the spring. * Further Culture Consortium Plan session to be set up – Away Day to consider role and membership of Consortium, and Plan will grow out of this.   The new Consortium Plan needs to be short and readable; to show what we would want Sheffield to look like in 5 years (reflecting the context of climate emergency, Black Lives Matter and Covid recovery); and what the Consortium can specifically do, with objectives, action points and KPIs.   * Invite Climate Change Alliance to a future meeting | **RM**  **RM**  **RM** |
| **3.** | **Impacts of Covid on the sector and audiences**  Covid continues to have impacts on venues, organisations and audiences. District Centres and facilities are being well-used, but footfall is still low in the city centre.  Sheffield Theatres have kept productions going despite sickness absences; Sheffield Museums sites have not had to close, but lack of footfall in the city centre is impacting Millennium Gallery and Graves Gallery. Site Gallery opened their first exhibition of 2022 last week, which was a lovely in-person event.  Most venues are requesting that face masks are worn for everyone’s safety and reassurance; ensuring good ventilation; and gradually increasing capacities.  Greg Fell, Director of Public Health, has been quite upbeat that covid is moving from pandemic to endemic.  Students are returning to campus, with greater numbers at Hallam from India and Nigeria. UoS staff are back in the office 60% of the time.  Sports and leisure venues are variable, with swimming popular but gyms less so. Classical audiences in the City Hall (an older demographic) are still low.  Libraries are aiming to return to pre-Covid hours by the end of February. |  |
| **4.** | **Sheffield Culture Collective and support for NPOs**  Sheffield Culture Collective has prioritised support for NPOs in the current funding round. Current and prospective NPOs have been meeting to support each other; the Collective has pledged £5k pa ‘city match’ for all NPO applications who do not currently have SCC funding. Organisations will have a common paragraph to include in their application, reflecting the collegiate approach being taken.  Another of the Collective’s priorities, regarding city messaging and promotion, will be assisted by a campaign being run by both universities and the City Council specifically to attract students, which highlights the city’s cultural offer.  Different ‘brands’ are needed for different audiences. | **Rebecca, Clare and Ian to meet to discuss BFI funding** |
| **5.** | **Sheffield City Council City Centre Strategic Vision consultation**  There was discussion on the current City Centre Strategic Vision, which is out for consultation. Everyone is encouraged to respond personally, and Jo will draft a Consortium joint response also.  The document is a helpful start, but needs more emphasis on culture; diversity; heritage; and facilities for city centre residents as more residential stock is created. | **Jo/Vanessa/Clare** |
| **6.** | **ACE Place Partnership Project Grants – discussion on future projects?**  A new Arts Council funding round has been launched, for consortia, partnerships and Cultural Education Partnerships (Create Sheffield are interested too). Funds are available from £100k to £1m. While the Consortium is a legal entity and could be an accountable body, a wider partnership might also be appropriate.  Vanessa reported that the funding could have a regeneration focus. The funds could also be used for a project with a diversity and inclusion focus.  This will be discussed in more detail at the Away Day on 3rd March. | **ALL to read the guidance** |
| **7.** | **Draft Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Plan**  Rebecca presented a very simple EDI Action Plan for the Consortium.  It was agreed that a clearer introduction/context was needed, showing that this is part of a long-standing journey, and some examples of good practice; we need to reference Create Sheffield; the document should be dated and reviewed at least annually, to link to the proposed Consortium annual review with Black Lives in Music. Should not become a detailed doc with too many specifics of Consortium organisations as will date very quickly, but to be an overview and reference point. | **Rebecca to redraft**  **Rebecca to set date with Roger Wilson** |
| **8.** | **AOB**  **Northern Cultural Network update** – Jo reported that Lord Mendoza seems genuinely committed to supporting culture in the North. The recent All Party Parliamentary Group Report helps to make the case. Creativity and creative industries underpin jobs in all sectors.  **Theatre Deli accommodation** – still exploring options.  **Roots and Futures Project –** a University of Sheffield project, linking diverse Sheffield communities with local heritage through engagement and outreach. This links to work on street names, archives and collections which was presented to the Race Equality Commission.  **Darnall Community of Culture** - Phase 1, with Darnall Well Being and Ignite Imaginations, took place in 2019/20. It is hoped to pick up Phase 2 during 2022 – this is an opportunity to support creativity in a diverse Sheffield neighbourhood, and strengthen links with city centre provision.  **Children, Young People and Families Consortium –** this is a new grouping being headed by Sheffield Hallam colleagues, which has grown from Move More and links to the Healthy Activities and Food school holidays programme. There are clear crossovers with the Culture Consortium and Create Sheffield.  **Event Central** – Vanessa updated on the latest progress on the building.  **Freelancer Fund** **Round 2** – Judith reported that Site, on behalf of the Consortium, has administered £220k to arts freelancers, which included £120k from the South Yorkshire Mayor’s Fund. Janet Jennings co-ordinated the grant process.  A further £160k from the Mayor’s Fund is being allocated through partners: Sensoria/Film; Theatre Deli/Performing Arts; Off the Shelf Festival of Words/Writers; Leadmill/Music.  Dan Jarvis steps down as Mayor in May. It is hoped that whoever is elected as the next Mayor will share Dan’s support for culture. |  |
| **8.** | **Next meeting:**  Next regular meeting **Friday 25th February 9.30-11.30 on Zoom**.  **Away Day** – Thursday 3rd March, 9.30-2.00, Workstation Creative Lounge. |  |